

*Ad*  
P20904.A01

Additionally, the present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 of French Patent Application FR 97 12042, filed September 23, 1997.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 21-28 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to make the appropriate reference to the

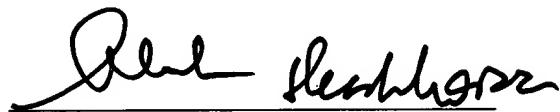
parent application and the foreign priority document. A further preliminary amendment will be filed in due course to cancel claims drawn to the subject matter allowed in the parent application and present claims along the lines of those canceled in the parent application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, should this application be taken up for examination before the filing of the further preliminary amendment.

Please charge any additional fees necessary for consideration of the papers filed herein and refund excess payments to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

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The Examiner is invited to direct all inquiries to the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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April 11, 2001  
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